

**In the claims:**

**Claim 1** (currently amended)      In the production of refractory articles, the improvement comprises incorporating a polycondensation product produced by reacting a bisphenol residue from the production of bisphenols with an aldehyde in an acidic medium and at least one phenolic compound into the refractory material and forming the refractory ~~material~~ article.

**Claim 2** (previously presented)      In the production of Claim 1, the bisphenol residue is from bisphenol A production.

**Claim 3** (previously presented)      In the production of Claim 1, the aldehyde is formaldehyde.

**Claims 4 to 8** (cancelled).

**Claim 9** (previously presented)      In the production of Claim 1, the phenolic compound is phenol.

**Claim 10** (previously presented)      In the production of Claim 1, the polycondensation product is dissolved in a solvent.

**Claim 11** (previously presented)      In the production of Claim 10, the solvent is high boiling.

**Claim 12 (previously presented)**      In the production of Claim 10, the solvent is selected from the group consisting of ethylene glycol, diethylene glycol, polyglycols and phthalates.